

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) For use in a digital cable set-top box capable of being coupled to a television set, a removable circuit apparatus capable of being inserted into a point of deployment (POD) host interface associated with said digital cable set-top box, said removable circuit apparatus comprising:

a point of deployment (POD) module interface capable of mating with said POD host interface; and

an RF transceiver coupled to said POD module interface capable of:

receiving an incoming baseband signal from said digital cable set-top box, said digital cable set-top box being configured to directly receive a provided RF signal provided by a service provider, and said incoming baseband signal being downconverted from said provided RF signal;

upconverting said incoming baseband signal to an outgoing RF signal; and

wirelessly transmitting said outgoing RF signal to at least one wireless communication device proximate said digital cable set-top box;

said RF transceiver further capable of wirelessly receiving an incoming RF signal from said at least one wireless communication device;

downconverting said incoming RF signal to an outgoing baseband signal; and

transmitting said outgoing baseband signal to said digital cable set-top box.

2. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said incoming baseband signal and said incoming RF signal comprise Internet protocol (IP) data packets.

3. (Previously Presented) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising:

a data processor coupled to said POD module interface and

capable of transmitting to said digital cable set-top box at least one of an audio signal and a video signal capable of being displayed on a screen of said television set; and
a memory coupled to said data processor capable of storing a user POD application program executable by said data processor, wherein said user POD application program is operable to cause said data processor to control operation of said RF transceiver.

4. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said data processor is capable of receiving user input signals from said digital cable set-top box.

5. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 4 wherein said user input signals comprise infrared signals detected by an infrared sensor associated with said digital cable set-top box.

6. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 further comprising a user interface coupled to said data processor capable of receiving user inputs from a user input device

coupled to said user interface.

7. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said user input device comprises a keyboard.

8. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said user input device comprises a mouse.

9. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 further comprising a disk storage device capable of storing said user POD application program.

10. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 further comprising a disk storage device capable of storing at least one of audio files, video files, graphics files, and text files associated with said user POD application program.

11. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said user POD application program further comprises a video game program

12. (Previously Presented) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said user POD application program further comprises an e-mail program.

13. (Previously Presented) For use in a digital cable set-top box capable of being coupled to a television set, a removable circuit apparatus capable of being inserted into a point of deployment (POD) host interface associated with said digital cable set-top box, said removable circuit apparatus comprising:

a point of deployment (POD) module interface capable of mating with said POD host interface; and

an RF transmitter coupled to said POD module interface capable of receiving an incoming baseband signal from said digital cable set-top box, said digital cable set-top box being configured to directly receive a provided RF signal provided by a service provider, and said incoming baseband signal being downconverted from said provided RF signal;

upconverting said incoming baseband signal to an outgoing RF signal; and

wirelessly transmitting said outgoing RF signal to at least one wireless communication device proximate said digital cable set-top box.

14. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said incoming baseband signal comprises Internet protocol (IP) data packets.

15. (Previously Presented) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising:

a data processor coupled to said POD module interface and capable of transmitting to said digital cable set-top box at least one of an audio signal and a video signal capable of being displayed on a screen of said television set; and

a memory coupled to said data processor capable of storing a user POD application program executable by said data processor, wherein said user POD application program is operable to cause said data processor to control operation of said RF transmitter.

16. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in

Claim 15 wherein said data processor is capable of receiving user input signals from said digital cable set-top box.

17. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 16 wherein said user input signals comprise infrared signals detected by an infrared sensor associated with said digital cable set-top box.

18. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a user interface coupled to said data processor capable of receiving user inputs from a user input device coupled to said user interface.

19. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 18 wherein said user input device comprises a keyboard.

20. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 18 wherein said user input device comprises a mouse.

21. (Original) The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in

Claim 14 wherein said IP data packets comprise at least one of AM radio baseband signals and FM radio baseband signals.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for changing the functionality of a consumer electronics device, the consumer electronics device comprising a user interface for allowing a user to experience content and a set top box, the set top box comprising a removable POD module for converting content from a network format to a local format and vice versa, the method comprising the acts of:

coupling the set top box to a network for directly receiving incoming signals from the network;

starting with the set top box coupled with a first removable POD module associated with a first functionality for the device, the first removable POD module having wireless connections with both the set top box and with the network;

removing the first POD module; and

replacing the first POD module with a second POD module associated with a second functionality for the device, the second removable POD module also having wireless connections with both the

set top box and the network.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein one of the first and second functionalities is one of the group: television, e-mail, digital radio, and at least one video game; and the other of the first and second functionalities is a different one of the group.

24. (Previously Presented) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the removable circuit apparatus is adapted to enable a respective consumer electronics function for the television set, so that changing between such removable circuit apparatuses changes the function the television set presents to a user.

25. (Previously Presented) The circuit of claim 24, wherein the removable circuit apparatus is adapted to act as a security device enabling or blocking a specific data service.

26. (Previously Presented) The circuit of claim 13, wherein the removable circuit apparatus is adapted to enable a respective

consumer electronics function for the television set, so that changing between such removable circuit apparatuses changes the function the television set presents to a user.

27. (Previously Presented) The circuit of claim 26, wherein the removable circuit apparatus is adapted to act as a security device enabling or blocking a specific data service.